

REMARKS

In view of the Appeal Brief filed on May 1, 2006, prosecution has been reopened by the Office and Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claims 1-14 and 32-44 are pending.

35 U.S.C. §103 Claim Rejections

A. Claims 1, 4, 9-14, 32-33, and 36-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness over U.S. Patent No. 6,138,178 to Watanabe (hereinafter, "Watanabe") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,233,619 to Narisi et al. (hereinafter, "Narisi") (*Office Action* p.3).

B. Claims 2-3, 5-8, 34-35, and 43-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness over Watanabe and Narisi in view of the Background of Applicant's Specification (hereinafter, "Background") (*Office Action* p.7). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Claim 1 recites (in part):

A data communication system configured to communicatively link a host device and a remote client device with a point-to-point data communication link, the host device and the remote client device each configured for multipoint data communication over a distributed network, the data communication system comprising:

a remote data communication interface driver of the host device implemented in the remote client device, the remote data communication interface driver configured to communicatively link with a data communication interface of the host device via the point-to-point data communication link; ...

1 Watanabe and/or Narisi do not teach or suggest a remote data
2 communication interface driver of a host device implemented in a remote client
3 device to communicatively link with a data communication interface of the host
4 device via the point-to-point data communication link, as recited in claim 1.

5 With reference to Fig. 5 of the subject application, Applicant describes that a
6 Remote NDIS miniport driver layer (530) of a host computing device (502) is
7 implemented in a client device (504) (instead of in the host computing device)
8 which facilitates a point-to-point communication link (506) between the two
9 devices without having to configure the host computing device with interface
10 components to communicate with the client device. The host computing device
11 can be communicatively linked with any mobile client device without having
12 driver(s) for a particular device installed on the host computing device
13 (*Specification* p.14, lines 8-16; Fig. 5).

14 As described, an advantage to having remote devices implemented with a
15 Remote NDIS miniport driver layer of a host computing device is that the host
16 computing device does not need to then have the various and different driver(s) for
17 the remote devices installed, but can still be communicatively linked with any
18 number of the mobile client devices (*Specification* p.16, lines 6-12; Fig. 6).

19 Narisi is not cited by the Office for “a remote data communication interface
20 driver of a host device implemented in a remote client device”, as recited in
21 claim 1. The Office then cites to Watanabe at col.7, lines 15-25 which describes
22 that, when a device is connected to a controller device, a determination is made as
23 to whether driver software to control the device is stored in the device. If the
24 device does include the driver software, then it is transmitted from the device to
25

1 the device controller which “makes it possible for the operation of the device to be
2 controlled by the device controller” (*Watanabe* Abstract; col.7, lines 15-25 and
3 43-58).

4 Claim 1 recites “a remote data communication interface driver of a host
5 device implemented in a remote client device”. In an opposite configuration,
6 *Watanabe* describes driver software of a device implemented in a controller
7 device. Contrary to the subject application, the device controller in *Watanabe*
8 requires driver software which “makes it possible for the operation of the device to
9 be controlled by the device controller” (*Watanabe* col.7, lines 52-58).

10 The Office also cites to *Watanabe* for “the remote data communication
11 interface driver configured to communicatively link with a data communication
12 interface of the host device” (*Office Action* p.3). If the basis for the rejection is
13 applied to the system described in *Watanabe*, the driver software received by the
14 device controller is utilized to communicatively link with a data communication
15 interface of the device controller itself, such that the device controller would then
16 be configured to communicate with itself. This proposed configuration is also
17 contrary to a host device being communicatively linked to a remote client device
18 with a point-to-point data communication link, as recited in claim 1.

19 Accordingly, claim 1 along with dependent claims 4 and 9-14 are allowable
20 over the *Watanabe-Narisi* combination for at least these reasons, and Applicant
21 requests that the §103 rejection be withdrawn.

22
23 **Claims 2-3 and 5-8** are allowable by virtue of their dependency upon
24 claim 1 which is allowable over the *Watanabe-Narisi* combination for at least the
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1 reasons described above in response to the §103 rejection of claim 1. Claims 2-3
2 and 5-8 are also allowable over the Watanabe-Narisi-Background combination
3 because the Background clearly does not include “a remote data communication
4 interface driver of a host device implemented in a remote client device”, as recited
5 in claim 1.

6 In the Background with reference to Fig. 4, Applicant describes a
7 computing device (402) that includes a Remote NDIS miniport driver layer (414),
8 and the computing device (402) is connected to a remote device (408) via a USB
9 connection (*Background* p.6, lines 14-15; Fig. 4). There is no indication in the
10 Background of a Remote NDIS driver of a host device implemented in a remote
11 client device, as recited in claim 1. The Background is described with reference to
12 Figs. 1-4, each of which include a computing device (e.g., host computing device)
13 having communication components to communicate with client or remote devices
14 via a communication link.

15 Fig.1 includes a host computing device (102) for conventional
16 point-to-point communication with a client device (104) via a serial connection
17 between serial ports of the two devices (*Background* p.3, lines 15-17). Similarly,
18 Fig. 2 includes a host computing device (202) for point-to-point communication
19 with a client device (204) via a point-to-point USB connection (*Background* p.3,
20 lines 15-17).

21 Fig. 3 includes a computing device (302) having multipoint network data
22 communication components for communication with network-connected device(s)
23 via a LAN (310) (*Background* p.4, lines 12-14; p.6, lines 4-5). Fig. 4 includes the
24 computing device (402) having the Remote NDIS miniport driver layer (414) for
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1 communication with a remote device (408) via a USB connection (*Background*
2 p.6, lines 14-15; Fig. 4).

3 Accordingly, the computing device (402) in Fig. 4 is the host computing
4 device and the remote device (408) is the client device. The Background describes
5 that a host computing device can include a Remote NDIS miniport driver layer
6 (414). Only the Detailed Description then describes the claimed subject matter
7 which includes implementing a host computing device's Remote NDIS driver
8 layer in an external device (e.g., a client, a remote device, a portable device, and
9 the like) (*Specification* p.10, line 19 to p.11, line 7; p.14, lines 8-16).

10 Accordingly, claims 2-3 and 5-8 are allowable over the
11 Watanabe-Narisi-Background combination for at least these reasons, and the §103
12 rejection should be withdrawn.

13
14 **Claim 32** recites "implementing a remote network communication
15 component of a host computing device in a remote client computing device".

16 As described above in response to the rejection of claim 1, Watanabe and/or
17 Narisi do not teach or suggest implementing a remote network communication
18 component of a host computing device in a remote client computing device, as
19 recited in claim 32.

20 Accordingly, claim 32 along with dependent claims 33 and 36-42 are
21 allowable over the Watanabe-Narisi combination, and Applicant requests that the
22 §103 rejection be withdrawn.

1 **Claims 34-35 and 43-44** are allowable by virtue of their dependency upon
2 claim 32 which is allowable over the Watanabe-Narisi combination for at least the
3 reasons described above in response to the §103 rejection of claim 32. Claims
4 34-35 and 43-44 are also allowable over the Watanabe-Narisi-Background
5 combination because the Background clearly does not include "implementing a
6 remote network communication component of a host computing device in a
7 remote client computing device", as recited in claim 32 (and as described above in
8 response to the rejection of claims 2-3 and 5-8).

9 Accordingly, claims 34-35 and 43-44 are allowable over the
10 Watanabe-Narisi-Background combination for at least these reasons, and the §103
11 rejection should be withdrawn.

12
13 **Conclusion**

14 Pending claims 1-14 and 32-44 are in condition for allowance. Applicant
15 respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application. If
16 any issues remain that preclude issuance of this application, the Examiner is urged
17 to contact the undersigned attorney before issuing a subsequent Action.

18
19 Respectfully Submitted,

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